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PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTIONS OF NEW HONEY-EATERS (AVES, MELIPHAGIDAE)

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For many years I have been engaged in a study of the Meliphagidae, mainly based on the outstanding collections in The American Museum of Natural History, New York (AMNH). During this study it appeared that a number of forms were undescribed; these forms are named and described in the present paper. The descriptions must be regarded as preliminary, and more detailed documentation will appear in a monograph of the Honey-Eaters, now in preparation. The descriptions had to be published now, however, in order to incorporate the new forms in my review of the Meliphagidae in Peters' Checklist of Birds of the World, Volume 12, which is now in press.

MELILESTES MEGARHYNCHUS BRUNNEUS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 294369, adult male; Siwi, Arfak Mountains, New Guinea; May 2, 1928; Ernst Mayr collector.

Diagnosis: Darker and more brownish than nominate *megarhynchus* (type locality: Aru Islands). The upper parts are warm brown without the olive tinge of *megarhynchus*, the under parts are darker brownish grey than *megarhynchus*, not so olive, and the abdomen and under tail-coverts are darker and warmer cinnamon brown. Also, the upper parts of the head are darker brown with broader blackish striation.

Range: Misol and Salawati in the western Papuan Islands, Vogelkop and Onin Peninsula in northwestern New Guinea, in the Weyland Mountains tending towards nominate *megarhynchus*.

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OEDISTOMA PYGMAEUM WAIGEUENSE new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 301021, adult male; Waigeu Island; June 5, 1931; G. Stein collector.

Diagnosis: Differs from nominate *pygmaeum* (type locality: Arfak Mountains, New Guinea) in having crown and nape dark grey, strongly contrasting with green upper parts (in nominate *pygmaeum* crown green, only slightly darker than upper parts), throat and breast paler grey than in nominate *pygmaeum*. Proportions smaller. Wing length of adult males 45-46 mm, in *pygmaeum* 47-51 mm; bill 11.8-12.8 mm, in *pygmaeum* 13-14 mm.

Range: Waigeu Island, in the western Papuan Islands.

OEDISTOMA PYGMAEUM FLAVIPECTUS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 422241, adult male; Wuroi, Oriomo River, British Papua (western division), southern New Guinea; Feb. 10, 1934; R. Archbold and A. L. Rand collectors.

Diagnosis: Upper parts distinctly paler green than in nominate *pygmaeum*, crown and nape of the same green color as rest of upper parts, under parts strongly suffused with yellow, abdomen and flanks with more yellow than in nominate *pygmaeum* and *waigeuense*. Proportions as in the nominate form.

Range: Southern New Guinea, from Etna Bay to Milne Bay.

OEDISTOMA PYGMAEUM OLIVASCENS new subspecies

Type: Mus. Comp. Zool., Cambridge, Mass., No. 167910, adult male; Upper Watut River, southeastern New Guinea; July 27, 1932; H. Stevens collector.

Diagnosis: Very similar to nominate *pygmaeum*, but under parts with a conspicuous greyish olivaceous tinge and upper parts slightly darker.

Range: Northern coast of southeastern New Guinea, from Milne Bay to Huon Peninsula.

LICHMERA INCANA MAREENSIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 337641, adult male; Maré Island, Loyalty Islands; Nov. 8, 1937; L. Macmillan collector.

Diagnosis: Very similar to *L. i. poliotis* (type locality: Loyalty Islands, restricted here to Lifu Island), but under parts darker grey, and lower breast and abdomen with much more yellow. Not differing from *poliotis* in measurements.

Range: Maré Island, Loyalty Islands.

LICHMERA INCANA GRISEOVIRIDIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 212924, adult male; Lopevi Island, New Hebrides; Aug. 9, 1926; J. G. Correia (The Whitney South Sea Expedition) collector.

Diagnosis: Very similar to *L. i. flavotincta* (type locality: Erromanga, New Hebrides), but paler throughout; crown paler grey, upper parts paler and less brownish green, and, particularly, under parts paler with less yellowish olive on lower breast and abdomen. Differs from *marensis* in its much larger proportions, but plumage coloration very similar, although the under parts are slightly darker grey with the yellow tinge less pronounced.

Range: Central New Hebrides (Efate, Makura, Mai, Tongoa, Epi, Lopevi, Pauuma, Ambrym, and Malekula).

MYZOMELA NIGRITA NIGERRIMA new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 422677, adult male; Long Island, off the northeastern coast of New Guinea; Dec. 2, 1933; W. F. Coultas (The Whitney South Sea Expedition) collector.

Diagnosis: Similar to *M. n. ernstmayri* (type locality: Manus (= Allison) Island, west of Niugini Islands), but darker throughout. Under wing-coverts black like the axillaries, inner linings of remiges darker greyish and almost indistinguishable from the greyish black ground color of the remiges, plumage of adult males more shining black and with darker greyish black feather bases. Proportions distinctly larger than in *ernstmayri*. Wing length of adult males 77-79 mm, in *ernstmayri* 75-77; adult females 71 mm, in *ernstmayri* 66-69 mm.

Range: Long Island, off the northeastern coast of New Guinea.

MYZOMELA CARDINALIS ASUNCIONIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 692934, adult female; Asuncion Island, in the northern Marianas Islands; June 1904; Owston's Japanese collectors.

Diagnosis: Adult males do not differ from *M. c. saffordi* (type locality: Guam Island, southern Marianas Islands) except by larger proportions. Wing length of adult males 76-79 mm, in *saffordi* 70-75 mm. Adult females differ strikingly from *saffordi* by having the red color strongly reduced, and by having light, greyish yellow under parts. Upper parts dark olive brown, with

the feathers of back and rump (but not mantle and neck) broadly edged with red, feathers of forehead and nape edged with dull red, chin dull red, under parts greyish yellow with a reddish wash on throat and chest. The only adult female ever collected (the type specimen) in its color pattern somewhat resembles immature birds of *saffordi*, but in all respects appears to be an adult bird.

Range: Northern Marianas Islands (Asuncion, Agrihan, Pagan, Alamagan), on Saipan being intermediate between this form and *saffordi*.

MELIPHAGA MIMIKAE RARA new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 342965, adult male; Bernhard Camp, Idenburg River, 50 meters altitude, northwestern New Guinea; April 26, 1939; The Archbold Expedition collection.

Diagnosis: Differs strikingly from the two other known forms of this species, *granti* (type locality: Mafulu, mountains of southeastern New Guinea) and nominate *mimikae* (type locality: Mimika River, southern New Guinea) in having uniform pale yellowish grey under parts (in *mimikae* and *granti* dark grey with longitudinal yellow streaks), abdomen and flanks much paler greyish yellow, and upper parts distinctly clearer and paler green, not so brownish olive-green. Proportions, particularly tarsus, much smaller. Wing length of *rara* (adult male) 84 mm, of *mimikae* 86-88 mm, of *granti* 89-95 mm; tarsus length in *rara* 19 mm, in *mimikae* 21-22 mm, in *granti* 22-23.5 mm (only adult males measured).

Range: Only the type known.

Remarks: This form belongs to the difficult *analoga* species group. It agrees with *M. mimikae* in its general diagnostic characters (dark coloration, especially on upper parts, ochraceous under wing-coverts and pale buffish inner linings on remiges), but in other respects differs so much that it may possibly represent a separate species.

MELIPHAGA ANALOGA PAPUAE new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 422342, adult male; Wuroi, Oriomo River, British Papua (western division), southern New Guinea; Jan. 28, 1934; The Archbold Expedition collection.

Diagnosis: Very similar to nominate *analoga* (type locality: Triton Bay, western New Guinea), but under parts distinctly paler grey with a somewhat stronger yellowish tinge; upper

parts paler, more clear greyish green, not so olive green; ear-tufts paler, yellowish white; under wing-coverts paler whitish. Proportions slightly smaller. Wing length of adult males 78-83 mm, in nominate *analoga* 81-87 (one 91) mm.

Range: Southern New Guinea from the Fly River district eastward to Hall Sound.

MELIPHAGA ANALOGA CONNECTENS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 267966, adult male; Madang, Astrolabe Bay, northeastern New Guinea; Aug. 30, 1928; R. H. Beck collector.

Diagnosis: Differs from *flavida* (type locality: Japen Island) in having under parts paler grey with much less yellow, upper parts paler and clearer green, not so bright citrine green, and ear-tufts slightly paler yellow. Also smaller proportions than topotypical *flavida*. Differs from *stevensi* (type locality: Upper Watut River, northeastern New Guinea) by greyish white, not yellowish inner linings on remiges, paler yellow under wing-coverts, and dusky olive green, not blackish, lores and postocular spot, while the general coloration of the plumage is very similar to that of *stevensi*. Proportions slightly larger than in *stevensi*, the new subspecies in this respect forming the connecting link between *flavida* and *stevensi*. Wing length of adult males of topotypical *flavida* 82-85 mm, of *connectens* 79-83 mm, of *stevensi* 77-80.

Range: Lowlands of northern New Guinea from Wewak eastward to Huon Gulf.

Remarks: The new form comes nearest in coloration to the remote nominate *analoga* from Vogelkop Peninsula, but has the upper parts slightly clearer and paler grey; it is also smaller, and has a smaller bill.

MELIPHAGA VERSICOLOR VULGARIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 268962, adult male; Finschhafen, Huon Peninsula, northeastern New Guinea; Feb. 7, 1929; R. H. Beck collector.

Diagnosis: Similar in coloration to *sonoroides* (type locality: Waigeu Island), but much smaller. Wing length of adult males 100-108 mm, in *sonoroides* 110-114 mm. Differs from *intermedia* (type locality: Samarai Island) and nominate *versicolor* (type locality: Cape York, northern Queensland), which have similar small proportions, by the pale, whitish, not yellow under parts.

Range: Japen Island in Geelvink Bay; coastal zone of northern New Guinea from Geelvink Bay to Huon Gulf; Fergusson Island in the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago.

MELIPHAGA FUSCA DESERTICOLA new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 695517, adult male; Margaret River, Kimberley Division, northern Western Australia; April 20, 1902; I. T. Tunney collector.

Diagnosis: Palest of all forms within the *flavescens* group of *M. fusca*, differing from *flavescens* (type locality: Derby, northern Western Australia) by having paler grey upper parts without any brownish tinge, paler yellow under parts with very faint striation, paler yellow front and crown (and yellow color more restricted), and duller olive edges on outer web of remiges. Differs from *zanda* (type locality: Normanton, Gulf of Carpentaria) especially by the much paler grey upper parts and much duller olive edges on remiges; under parts only slightly paler.

Range: Margaret River, in arid interior of northern Western Australia.

MELIPHAGA PENICILLATA INTERIORIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 343828, adult male; Ward River, south of Charleville, southwestern Queensland, Australia; March 1, 1940; L. Macmillan collector.

Diagnosis: Throughout paler than nominate *penicillata* (type locality: interior of New South Wales, restricted here to Wagga-Wagga); under parts with much paler greyish throat and chest, and with whitish, not greyish, abdomen and flanks; upper parts paler and colder greyish brown, forehead and crown only slightly suffused with pale yellow, cheeks and ear-coverts yellow, without the olive greenish tinge found in nominate *penicillata*; black ear-stripe reduced or absent. Also slightly smaller. Wing length of adult males of topotypical *penicillata* 85-92 mm, of *interioris* 83-85, adult females of *penicillata* 79-83, of *interioris* 76 mm.

Range: Northwestern New South Wales, northward to south-central Queensland.

MELIPHAGA FLAVIVENTER TARARAE new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 428247, adult male; Tarara, Wassi Kussa River, 90 miles west of Daru, British Papua (western division), southern New Guinea; Dec. 8, 1936; The Archbold Expedition collection.

Diagnosis: Much paler throughout than *saturation* (type locality: Aru Islands) and *giulianettii* (type locality: Aroa River, southeastern New Guinea), and, further, differing strikingly by possessing a broad and conspicuous streak of white feathers leading from gape to the white supraauricular spot. This white streak is completely missing in *giulianettii* and in the mainland populations of *saturation*, but occasionally is present in Aru Islands birds. In *tararae* the upper throat is pale grey, lower throat and chest pale greyish brown, breast and abdomen pale buff (not rich cinnamon), flanks cinnamon (not chestnut), mantle and back distinctly paler earth-brown than in *saturation* and *giulianettii*, and upper parts of head not so dark brown.

Range: Southern coast-land of New Guinea, between middle and lower Fly River, westward to about Digul River.

MELIPHAGA OBSCURA VIRIDIFRONS new subspecies

Type: Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia No. 132851, adult female (labelled male); Bamoskaboe, Karoon, Tamrau Mountains, Vogelkop Peninsula, 2300 feet altitude, northwestern New Guinea; March 1, 1938; D. Ripley (Denison-Crockett South Pacific Expedition) collector.

Diagnosis: Differs from nominate *obscura* (type locality: Mt. Scratchley, southeastern New Guinea) in having front and crown green, like nape and upper parts, while in *obscura* front and crown are grey, contrasting with nape.

Range: Mountains of Vogelkop Peninsula, northwestern New Guinea. Specimens from the Weyland Mountains are intermediate between *viridifrons* and nominate *obscura*.

MELITHREPTUS LAETIOR NORMANTONIENSIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 691532, adult male; Normanton, northwestern Queensland, Australia; Jan. 31, 1914; R. Kemp collector.

Diagnosis: Differing from nominate *laetior* (type locality: Lake Eyre district, central Australia) only in its smaller proportions. Wing length of adult males 81-83 mm, in nominate *laetior* 84-90 mm; adult females 77-79 mm, in nominate *laetior* 82-84 mm.

Range: Northwestern Queensland, south of Gulf of Carpentaria. Specimens from Cooktown and Cairns area, northeastern Queensland, are probably referable to this form.

MELITHREPTUS LAETIOR PARUS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 691546, adult male; Exmouth Gulf, mid-Western Australia; June 21, 1902; T. Carter collector.

Diagnosis: Differing from nominate *laetior* (type locality: Lake Eyre district, central Australia) in its larger and more robust bill and, on the average, slightly longer wings. Bill length (measured from skull) in adult males 18.0, 18.5 mm, in nominate *laetior* 16-17 mm.

Range: Only known from the type locality.

PYCNOPYGIUS IXOIDES CINEREIFRONS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 428278, adult male; two miles below junction of Black and Palmer rivers, 100 meters altitude, British Papua (western division), southern New Guinea; July 13, 1936; The Archbold Expedition collection.

Diagnosis: Differs strikingly from nominate *ixoides* (type locality: Sorong, Vogelkop Peninsula) in having grey feather edges on front, crown, and occiput, contrasting with the color of the upper parts (in *ixoides* olive green feather edges like those on upper parts); further, in having lighter brown ground color and paler olive-green feather edges on upper parts, light cinnamon throat contrasting with greyish brown breast and abdomen (in *ixoides* throat greyish brown like breast), and deeper and brighter cinnamon axillaries, under wing-coverts and inner linings on remiges, the axillaries and smaller under wing-coverts being almost bright rusty, almost as colorful as in the south-eastern form *finschi*. Proportions as in nominate *ixoides*.

Range: Southern New Guinea from Mimika River eastward to upper Fly River. The population of the Weyland Mountains belongs to nominate *ixoides*, although slightly tending towards *cinereifrons*.

PHILEMON CITREOGULARIS CARPENTARIAE new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 696823, adult male; Normanton, north-western Queensland, Australia; May 1914; R. Kemp collector.

Diagnosis: In coloration, hardly differing from nominate *citreogularis* (type locality: interior of New South Wales) and *johnstoni* (type locality: Johnston River, northern Queensland), only very slightly paler generally, but differing from nominate *citreogularis* in having a much larger bill, and from *johnstoni* in having much greater wing length. Wing length of adult males:

citrecogularis 136-140 mm, *carpentariae* 135-141 mm, *johnstoni* 127-131 mm: bill length: *citrecogularis* 30.5-31.5 mm, *carpentariae* 33-34 mm, *johnstoni* 33-34 mm.

Range: Southern coast of Gulf of Carpentaria, northwestern Queensland.

Remarks: It is possible that the name *pseudonymus* Mathews and Neumann, 1939 (type locality: Cloncurry, northern Queensland) can be used for this form. The subspecies *pseudonymus* was based on irrelevant color characters and no measurements were given. I have seen only one specimen (adult male) from Cloncurry. It had a wing length of 130 mm, but was, unfortunately, worn, and may have measured 132 mm in fresh plumage. The bill was broken, but appeared to have been large.

PHILEMON NOVAEGUINEAE FRETENSIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 330277, adult male; Delena, Hall Sound, British Papua (central division), New Guinea; May 28, 1929; H. Hamlin collector.

Diagnosis: Differs from nominate *novaeguineae* (type locality: Triton Bay, southwestern New Guinea), *brevipennis* (type locality: Utakwa River, southern New Guinea) and *aruensis* (type locality: Aru Islands) in being distinctly paler slate grey on upper parts and slightly paler grey on under parts, and, in addition, differs from the neighboring *brevipennis* in being much larger. Wing length of adult males: topotypical *brevipennis* 142-144 mm, *fretensis* 158 mm (same length in three specimens).

Range: Southern New Guinea from middle Fly River eastward along south coast of southeastern New Guinea to Milne Bay.

PHILEMON NOVAEGUINEAE TRIVIALIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 697135, adult male; Collingwood Bay, north coast of southeastern New Guinea; June 28, 1894; A. S. Meek collector.

Diagnosis: Same general coloration as *subtuberosus* (type locality: Fergusson Island, D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago), but slightly lighter (the *subtuberosus* from the Trobriand Islands are the darkest), with distinctly longer bill and, especially, with larger casque on bill. Length of bill in adult males of *trivialis* 47.5, 50.2 mm, in *subtuberosus* from the D'Entrecasteaux Archipelago 43-44 mm, and from the Trobriand Islands 44-47.5 mm.

Range: Northern coast of southeastern New Guinea, known from Collingwood Bay and Kumusi River.

PHILEMON CORNICULATUS CLAMANS new subspecies

Type: Los Angeles County Museum No. 15117, adult male; Wallaroo Gorge, Carnarvon Range, southeastern Queensland, Australia; July 2, 1954; K. E. Stager and J. B. Davidson collectors.

Diagnosis: Intermediate in size between the large nominate *corniculatus* (type locality: New South Wales) and the small *elliotti* (type locality: Mt. Elliot, northern Queensland). Wing length of adult males: *corniculatus* 159-166 mm, *clamans* 154-156 mm, *elliotti* 137-147 mm.

Range: Southeastern Queensland.

MELIDECTES FUSCUS GILLIARDI new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 705793, adult male; Mt. Wilhelm, Bismarek Range, 11,000 feet altitude, east-central New Guinea; June 7, 1950; E. T. Gilliard collector.

Diagnosis: Same coloration as *occidentalis* (type locality: Wichmann Mountains, central New Guinea) and nominate *fuscus* (type locality: Wharton Range, southeastern New Guinea), differing from *occidentalis* in longer wing and bill, and from nominate *fuscus* in shorter bill and tarsus. The bill/tarsus ratio in the three forms is noteworthy; in *occidentalis* the bill is much shorter than the tarsus, in *gilliardi* it is equal in length with the tarsus, and in nominate *fuscus* it is longer than the tarsus. Measurements of adult males (in mm):

	WING	BILL	TARSUS
<i>occidentalis</i>	108-113	29.0-30.0	31.0-33.0
<i>gilliardi</i>	114-116	31.5-33.0	32.5-33.5
<i>fuscus</i>	113-117	34.0-37.0	33.0-35.0

Range: Bismarek Mountains, eastern New Guinea.

Remarks: Named after the collector, the late Dr. E. Thomas Gilliard.

MYZA CELEBENSIS PARVIROSTRIS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 300232, adult male; Mt. Tanke Salokko, 2000 meters altitude, Mengkoka Mts., southeastern Celebes; July 22, 1931; G. Heinrich collector.

Diagnosis: Differs from nominate *celebensis* (type locality: Bone Mts., Gorontalo, northern Celebes) in its much smaller proportions, especially its smaller bill. Wing length of adult males: nominate *celebensis* (from Latimodjong Mts., central Celebes) 85-87 mm, *parrivirostris* 81-83 mm; bill length: nominate *celebensis* 32-34 mm, *parrivirostris* 28-30 mm. No material from the type locality of *celebensis* has been examined, but a series from Ile-Ile, northern Celebes, is similar to the Latimodjong birds in measurements, although not quite so big.

Range: Mengkoka Mountains, southeastern Celebes.

PHYLIDONYRIS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE CAUDATA new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 692106, adult male; King Island, Bass Strait, Australia; April 25, 1914; T. Tregellas collector.

Diagnosis: Differs from all other forms of this species by its distinct reduction of the yellow color in wings and tail, and by its larger proportions, particularly the longer tail. Length of tail in adult males of *caudata* 83-91 mm, compared with 75-83 mm in all other subspecies.

Range: King Island and Flinders Island in Bass Strait, Australia.

ACANTEORHYNCHUS TENUIROSTRIS TROCHILOIDES new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 703283, adult male; Bunya Mountains, 2000 feet altitude, southeastern Queensland, Australia; Oct. 3, 1940; L. Macmillan collector.

Diagnosis: Differs from nominate *tenuirostris* (type locality: New South Wales) by having under parts (below the black pectoral band) much paler cinnamon, the band across nape dull rusty, not deep chestnut, and the mantle olive greyish green with a rusty tinge, not dark warm rusty brown; differs from *cairnsensis* (type locality: Cairns, northern Queensland) by having throat chestnut, not pale vinous pink.

Range: Restricted to the isolated pockets of rainforest in southeastern Queensland.

ACANTHORHYNCHUS TENUIROSTRIS REGIUS new subspecies

Type: AMNH No. 693497, immature male; King Island, Bass Strait, Australia; April 22, 1914; T. Tregellas collector.

Diagnosis: Only the type specimen known, an immature male, differing from all other subspecies by the very long bill, measuring 32 mm, and the extremely long tarsus, measuring 21.5 mm,

with a wing length of 71 mm. Only one other immature male has been examined, belonging to nominate *tenuirostris*, with bill 24.5 mm, tarsus 18.2 mm, wing 68 mm. The largest bill of adult birds of any subspecies is 31 mm, reached in nominate *tenuirostris*; the bill of the Tasmanian form measures in adult males 25-26.5 mm. The tarsus of adult males of the nominate form, which is the largest of all, measures 18-19 mm.

Range: King Island in Bass Strait; probably also on Flinders Island.

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